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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year ended

31st December, 1947



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF UPTON-UPON-SEVERN

Report for the Year 1947

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

As this report deals with a period during which my predecessor held office, I cannot properly comment much on the work done during 1947, excepting to endorse what has been said by your Sanitary Inspector. The year was one in which the difficulties of post-war reorganisation were met face to face for the first time. Shortage of material, continuation or increase of controls, and the general re-orientation of staff, who were all somewhat stale after the strain of war, combined to produce a difficult situation which is being overcome mainly by determination and loyalty.

(Signed) H. F. GREEN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	50,947
Number of separately rated hereditaments	...	...	...	...	...
according to the rate books	...	...	...	...	...	3,840
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£58,841
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£232

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate)	...	...	...	...	...	12,710
Birth Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	18.3
Still-Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	...	...	...	...	...	25.1
Death Rate (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	...	...	...	...	...	15.8
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	...	...	30.5

Comparable data for England and Wales, 1947.

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	20.5
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	...	12.0
Infantile Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	41.0

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Laboratory facilities are provided by arrangement with the County Council at their Laboratory at the Shirehall. All bacteriological and chemical examinations and analyses required can therefore be conveniently undertaken as and when required.

Clinics.—There are none provided by this Authority.

The County Council have provided by local arrangement with Voluntary Committees, for Infant Welfare Centres to be held at the following places:—

Upton-upon-Severn	...	...	1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Welland	...	...	2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Hanley Swan	...	...	3rd Wednesday in the month at 2.30 p.m.
Kempsey	...	...	1st Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m.

Clinics are also provided at Worcester and Malvern under arrangements made by the County Council, for Maternity, Orthopædic, Ear, Nose and Throat and Eye Cases.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the Year ending December, 1947

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the District Council.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present a report on the Sanitary Inspector's work for the year ended December, 1947. It is impossible in an annual report to embody completely the achievements and endeavours of the department throughout the year. Thus, one is reluctantly compelled to mainly rely on statistics to convey some idea of the many varied duties in connection with the office.

Such works and duties continue to increase each year. Unfortunately, owing to the restrictions still considered necessary by the Central Government, one's efforts do not always produce the desired results, and this is especially evident in housing repair work.

I am indeed indebted to my able colleague Mr. Cromwell, who carries the fuller burden of the Inspector's work and who by his conscientious interest in the work and his human and practical approach overcomes most obstacles and much good work is done with the minimum friction.

I am still without the services of Mr. Hughes the assistant, and his absence tends to retard the work on Housing Survey.

Summary of Inspections.

Housing inspections	37
General complaints	72
School inspections (sanitary accommodation) ...	11
Visits for water and milk sampling	48
Visits to food shops	48
Visits to bakehouses	32
Visits to cafes, kitchens and hotels	29
Cow shed inspections	74
Investigations infectious diseases	41
Inspections, tents, vans and sheds	6
Drainage inspections	158

Rats and mice destruction inspections	...	...	...	14
Verminous premises inspected	...	...	...	3
Inspections under Public Health (Meat) Regulations				27
Visits to hop pickers' dwellings	...	...	...	11
Repair licences inspections (Civil Building Control)				178
Miscellaneous and re-inspections	...	...	...	281
Visits in connection with Requisitioned property				31
Investigations of Overcrowding	...	...	...	5
Visits to Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	8

Ice Cream.

No. of Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
No. of Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of inspections of premises	...	...	...	...	...	3

Bakehouses.

No. of bakehouses in area	...	...	...	...	8
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	32
No. of notices served	...	...	{ Cleanliness Sanitary Accom. }		Nil

Shops, Cafes, Kitchens and Public Houses.

No. of inspections made	...	...	...	...	29
No. of notices served	...	...	{ Cleanliness Sanitary Accom. }		Nil

Factory and Workshops Acts.

No. of premises inspected	...	...	...	...	8
No. of notices served	...	...	{ Cleanliness Sanitary Accom. }		Nil

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders

No. of Producers	...	...	{ Wholesalers Retailers }		273 28
Purveyors other than producers		...	...	...	3
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	74
No. of samples taken	14	...	{ Satisfactory Unsatisfactory }	...	13 1

WATER SUPPLY

Piped Supplies.

<i>Area Supplied.</i>	<i>Authority Supplying.</i>
Upton-upon-Severn (most of the parish)	District Council.
Powick Mental Hospital and about 30 houses	Worcester City Corporation.
Newland, about half the parish	Malvern Urban Council. (Statutory Authority.)
Madresfield, most of the parish	(Private Supply) Area in Malvern Statutory Area.

The greater part of the district relies upon supplies from wells sunk to various depths through varying stratas, with clay generally forming the impervious strata. No serious drought was reported from these sources during the year, due mainly to the little above normal rainfall during the year. Generally, through the gradual installation of more modern sanitary fittings in the shape of baths, water closets, etc., throughout rural areas, increased demand is placed on the well supplies and it is probable that even with normal rainfall shortage will exist. The quality of well water, especially from the shallow older wells is always doubtful, and generally the total hardness is high.

A comprehensive scheme to serve the whole area was being prepared at the end of the year by the Consulting Engineer. The scheme is based on bulk supplies being obtained from adjoining water Authorities. The existing bore-hole supply at Upton-upon-Severn will continue to be used and if possible a little greater supply obtained from such source.

WATER SAMPLING

Upton-upon-Severn Bore-Hole Supply.

No. of Bacteriological examinations	...	...	...	4
<i>Result</i> —Satisfactory	...	...	...	4
Unsatisfactory	...	...	...	—

Private Wells.

No of Samples submitted for Analysis	...	...	28
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	10
Unsatisfactory	...	...	18
No. of wells cleaned and repaired as a result of informal action	...	...	7

Swimming Baths.

No. of privately owned swimming baths open to public	...	...	1
No. of samples submitted for analysis	...	...	1
Result—Satisfactory	...	...	1
Unsatisfactory	...	...	—

HOUSING

No. of houses erected during the year	...	...	33
(a) By Local Authority	...	...	27
(b) By other bodies or persons	...	...	6
(c) Properties requisitioned by Authority	...	...	Nil

Housing Inspections

Table showing inspections under the Housing Survey advised by the “Hobhouse Report”.

Year	Houses inspected and recorded No.	Classification *				Houses included in categories. 1-4 noted for action under the Rural Workers Act,
		1	2	3	4	
1945	570	35	137	307	91	53
1946	337	2	122	153	60	28
1947	37	3	14	9	11	2
Total	944	40	273	469	162	83

*(1) In all respects fit.

(2) Minor defects.

(3) Major defects.

(4) Unfit, and cannot be made fit at a reasonable expense.

The number of houses classified in column four does not represent a true picture of the position. Houses obviously fit have not been inspected and are not included in the figures.

The rate of progress of the work of general Housing Survey has been unavoidably slow during the year owing to temporary shortage of staff and the increase in the amount of routine work which was greatly increased by the Control of Civil Building.

The work entailed in the Control of Civil Building carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Works added a great burden to the department, but, I believe it achieved the desired effect, for by the end of the year, and still more apparent during the early part of 1948, more building contractors were becoming interested in Council House tendering.

The general housing position remains acute and the list of applications for Council Houses grows at an ever increasing rate. The position is somewhat aggravated in parts of the area by the fact that a few of our parishes adjoin the boundaries of Worcester and Malvern, and in both towns industrial development has taken place without a corresponding increase in housing accommodation.

The farming community, through the changes in farming, brings an increased requirement for houses, and unless good houses, reasonably sited near or within the village centre can be quickly provided, sufficient labour will not be available for this important industry.

POST-WAR HOUSING

<i>Houses Completed.</i>		<i>In course of erection.</i>	<i>Programmes Requirements.</i>
1946	10	—	
1947	27	57	300

SEWERAGE

Areas having a Sewerage Scheme:—

Upton-upon-Severn	...	Pumping Scheme
Kempsey	...	ditto
Callow End	...	ditto
Earls Croome	...	ditto
Hanley Castle	...	Gravitation
Hanley Swan	...	ditto
Powick	...	ditto

A number of smaller schemes dealing with sewage from small groups of houses are also in existence.

Improvements at most of the sewage works are necessary, and as and when areas become supplied with piped water, improvements or enlargements may be necessary.

The small and unsatisfactory Disposal Scheme at Powick will become redundant when the large Central Disposal Scheme, now under construction, is completed.

The treatment of sewage in scattered Rural areas generally gives rise to legitimate complaints. Investigations satisfy one that improvements in the sewage arrangements in the following parishes must be given very serious consideration in the near future—Welland, Ripple, Severn Stoke, Madresfield and Newland.

REPORTS ON SAMPLES OF EFFLUENT

One sample of effluent submitted for analysis from Earls Croome sewage plant was found to be satisfactory.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACTS

No. of infestations treated	...	...	...	...	55
Private houses	...	...	...	...	52
Business premises	...	...	...	...	3
No. of treatments of refuse tips	...	...	...	...	10
No. of sewerage schemes treated	...	...	...	...	6
Times in year	...	...	...	...	1

This work is ably carried out by Mr. R. H. Bemand, the Rodent Officer, who is employed jointly by the Upton-on-Severn and Pershore District Councils.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Area served	...	...	...	Whole area about 85% of properties.
Service	...	...	...	Fortnightly in most areas.
Disposal	...	...	...	To three tips.
Approximate amount of refuse	...	...	...	1,100 tons per year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food condemned as being unfit for Human Consumption.

Bacon	101½ lbs.	Canned Macedoine	1 tin
Luncheon Meat ...	14½ lbs.	Canned Fish ...	25 tins
Suet	44½ lbs.	Canned Milk ...	45 tins
Canned Meat and		Oranges	25 lbs.
Vegetables ...	32 ozs.	Dates	28 lbs.
Canned Sausage ...	27 ozs.	Apples	80 lbs.
Canned Peaches	3 tins	Grapes	40 lbs.
Canned Peas ...	1 tin	Biscuits	19 lbs.
Canned Jam and		Slab Cake ...	224 lbs.
Marmalade ...	7 tins	Tea	2¾ lbs.
Canned Macaroni		All Bran	1 pkt.
Cheese	1 tin	Flour	5 stone
Canned Peeled		Kippers	6 stone
Tomatoes ...	1 tin	Fresh Haddock ...	6 stone
Canned Plums ...	2 tins	Fish Cakes ...	6 doz.

In addition, 5 tons of Scotch Seed potatoes were condemned owing to frost damage.

CONCLUSION

In concluding this report mention is made of the flood which occurred during March of this year.

This flood which was certainly the highest in living memory, and believed the highest recorded, was caused through the heavy falls of snow, generally deposited throughout the country, and especially in the upper reaches of rivers draining the area. The position was aggravated by the quick thaw which caused the water to rise at an abnormal rate.

Thousands of acres of land were under deep flood and hundreds of houses flooded seriously, and some even to a depth of over ten feet.

Emergency measures were taken, families were evacuated where possible, marooned families were provided, by the kind co-operation of the school canteens at Hanley Castle and Malvern, with at least one hot meal a day, and such families were also supplied with drinking water and other necessities. After the flood waters had receded soap and disinfectants were

supplied and drinking water was carted to most properties where the wells had been under flood.

The financial aid given by the Lord Mayor of London's Flood Disaster Fund was highly appreciated. In many cases much of the furniture in the houses was utterly ruined, and even the structure of some houses was badly damaged.

The wonderful co-operation of the Police, the Army Authorities, and many individuals in helping generally in the work of relief cannot be too highly praised.

I am, your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. E. FIRTH,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment or Isolation are received by arrangement with the City of Worcester Corporation at their Isolation Hospital, Worcester. The arrangements include the use of the Infectious Ambulance and the Hospital Authority assist by carrying out any necessary steam disinfection. The disinfected articles are returned to the owners by this Council's vehicles. The co-operation of the Hospital Staff is most satisfactory and our appreciation is offered to the Matron and Staff for their prompt attention and the care of patients.

General investigation of cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and other more serious Infectious Diseases is carried out and advice given to contacts which might be conducive to the retarding of the spread of infection. A simple form of room disinfection by fumigation is carried out by the investigator.

Visits to premises for investigation	...	...	41
Premises disinfected after notifiable disease	...		17
Premises disinfected after other diseases	...		2
Verminous premises disinfected	...	...	1

Nine cases of diphtheria occurred during the year, four in one family and two others were all infected from the same source, i.e. three adults fell ill after attending a race meeting. Three children of one of these men developed diphtheria later, and the father and one child died.

The other two cases were both adult and were infected outside the County.

It will be of interest to note that of the nine cases of Diphtheria notified during the year, our records contain no evidence that any of the patients had been immunised.

The occurrence of only one case of poliomyelitis during a year when the general incidence over England and Wales was the highest ever recorded is remarkable. Provided that I can report another low incidence next year, there is unlikely to be much cause for alarm on this score.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1947

Disease	All ages	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-19 yrs.	20-34 yrs.	35-44 yrs.	45-64 yrs.	65 ×	No age specified
Scarlet Fever	20	—	—	—	1	—	9	4	2	2	1	1	—	—
Diphtheria	9	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	4	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	73	1	3	4	4	5	44	8	1	3	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	18	1	3	2	2	3	3	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Civilians:														
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CARRIED OUT DURING 1947.

	Ages 1-5 years	Ages 5-14 years	Total for Year
Children who received a full course of Primary Immunisation ...	150	31	181
Children who received a Re-inforcing Injection ...	—	—	150

Immunisation in relation to Child Population.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

Age at 31.12.47 <i>i.e.</i> Born in Year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938-42	10-14 1933-37	Total under 15
Number Immunised ...	13	113	111	153	147	610	675	1,822
Children under 5						Children 5-14		
Estimated mid-year child population, 1947						1,630		

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

It is uncertain whether I shall be able to report to you next year on the state of diphtheria immunisation, since this service will have been taken over by the County Council.

It is to be hoped, however, that there will be no administrative objection to such a report, because much of the success of the scheme depends on the local interest.

At the end of 1947, 48% of those under the age of five years had been immunised. According to our records, and the Registrar-General's estimate of the population by age groups, over 100% of children between the ages of 5 and 14 had been immunised. This discrepancy is due to the fact that a large number of official and unofficial evacuees returned home in 1946. They were immunised in the district during the war years, but it was almost impossible to distinguish all these children from those born and bred here. This apparent increase in the number of older children immunised will persist for three more years, when a more accurate figure should emerge.

CAUSES OF DEATH (ALL AGES)

					<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2	1	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	6	4	2
Cancer (all forms)	...	...	...	...	25	8	17
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Intra-cranial Vascula Lesions	...	...	...	...	20	9	11
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries	...	...	...	...	78	35	43
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	8	4	4
Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	12	4	8
Diseases of the digestive system	...	...	...	...	3	1	2
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	5	2	3
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Congenital Conditions (at birth)	3	1	2
Violence	7	5	2
All other causes	29	12	17
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				Totals	201	87	114
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Tuberculosis

At the end of 1947 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of 38 males and 33 females, who normally reside in the district.

During the year 14 new cases were notified, 12 on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 because of the presence of the disease in parts of the body other than the lungs.

